

George Orwell

1984



Downloadable
**Audio
Files**

Classic

Young Adult Readers



Young Adult Readers

Stage 3 B1

1984

George Orwell

B1

Young Adult Readers



Book brief

- 1** Written in 1949, the book acted as a warning by describing the horrible things that might happen in the world 35 years later.
- 2** Although *1984* was written before everyone started using computers, the technology in the novel is used to control information and people's lives.
- 3** The novel *1984* is among the most popular books written in the last hundred years and one of the most translated.
- 4** They say that Orwell got some ideas for *1984* from his teacher Aldous Huxley's novel called *Brave New World*.
- 5** Life was very difficult for Orwell while writing this novel. He almost died during the war, then he lost his wife and became ill himself. The British Government watched him carefully while he was working on *1984* and he died only nine months after it had been published.

In this reader:



To encourage students to connect the story to the world they live in.

PRELIMINARY

B1 level activities.

Story Notes

A brief summary of the text.

Glossary

An explanation of difficult words.

Picture Caption

A brief explanation of the picture.

Audio

These icons indicate the parts of the story that are recorded:



George Orwell

1984

Retold and Activities by
Alice Venessa Bever

Illustrated by
Lorenzo Conti

Young Adult Eli Readers

The **ELI Readers** collection is a complete range of books and plays for readers of all ages, ranging from captivating contemporary stories to timeless classics. There are four series, each catering for a different age group: **First ELI Readers**, **Young ELI Readers**, **Teen ELI Readers** and **Young Adult ELI Readers**. The books are carefully edited and beautifully illustrated to capture the essence of the stories and plots. The readers are supplemented with 'Focus on' texts packed with background cultural information about the writers and their lives and times.

1984

George Orwell

Retold and Activities

Alice Venessa Bever

Level Consultant

Silvana Sardi

Illustrations

Lorenzo Conti

ELI Readers

Founder and Series Editors

Paola Accattoli, Grazia Ancillani,

Daniele Garbuglia (Art Director)

Layout

Camilla Ninivaggi

Photo credits

Shutterstock

© 2021 ELI, Gruppo editoriale ELI

P.O. Box 6

62019 Recanati (MC)

Italy

T +39 071750701

F +39 071977851

info@elionline.com

www.elionline.com

Typeset in 11,5 / 15 pt Monotype Fulman

Printed in Italy by Tecnostampa – Pignini

Group Printing Division

Loreto – Trevi (Italia) – ERA 340.10

Contents

6	Main Characters	
8	Before you Read	
10	Chapter 1	Trust No One
18	Activities	
20	Chapter 2	Who Will Disappear?
28	Activities	
30	Chapter 3	The Search for Truth
38	Activities	
40	Chapter 4	New Love
48	Activities	
50	Chapter 5	Possibilities
58	Activities	
60	Chapter 6	Finding the Brotherhood
68	Activities	
70	Chapter 7	What Did You Do?
78	Activities	
80	Chapter 8	I Will Make You Perfect
88	Activities	
90	Chapter 9	What Is Love?
102	Activities	
104	Focus on...	George Orwell
106	Focus on...	Newspeak
108	Focus on...	Surveillance and Technology - Then and Now
110	Test Yourself	
111	Syllabus	

Main Characters



Winston Smith
*The main character:
he dreams of being free.*



Julia
*She loves breaking the
rules of the Party.*





Big Brother
*A member of the
powerful Inner Party.*



Emmanuel Goldstein
*An old man who runs
a second-hand shop.*



Parsons
*A man who works
in the Records
Department whose*



Syme



Ampleworth
*They say he's
the leader of the
Brotherhood who*

Reading B1 Preliminary

1 Complete the text about the story with the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

Winston Smith is a (0) *member* of the Party that controls London, in the nation of Oceania. (1) Winston goes, even in his own home, the Party watches him (2) telescreens. The face of Big Brother, the Party's powerful leader, is (3) around him. The Party controls everything in Oceania and (4) changes the history of past events. The Party also controls (5) people speak by making them use a special language called Newspeak. This (6), people don't have any words to show that they don't agree with what the Party thinks or does.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 0 | A team | B member | C piece | D partner |
| 1 | A Everybody | B Everything | C Everywhere | D Somewhere |
| 2 | A through | B across | C at | D among |
| 3 | A whole | B every | C right | D all |
| 4 | A even | B only | C still | D too |
| 5 | A who | B how | C what | D where |
| 6 | A time | B way | C example | D reason |

Speaking ◆ 21st Century Skills

2 School rules tell you what you're allowed and not allowed to do.

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 What are the rules at your school?
- 2 Do you think rules are important? Why? / Why not?
- 3 Which rules don't you agree with? Why?
- 4 What do your parents say you have to do at home?
- 5 How late are you allowed to stay out at the weekend?

Grammar – Can / Must

Do you know the difference between *can* and *must*?

How is this important in this story?

Can and *must* are modal verbs and follow the form: verb + infinitive without *to*:
I can go to the library today because it's open until six o'clock.

They are never followed by + *ing*: *I must ~~going to~~ school until June.*

Can is used to talk about ability and possibility. *I can swim. I can see you*

Writing

- 3 List a few things that you can do and some activities you must do.

Can do: *I can play the piano.*

Must do: *I must do my homework before dinner.*

Listening B1 Preliminary

- 2 4 Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and choose the correct answer, A, B, or C.

0 The story starts in

- A winter.
 B summer.
 C spring.

1 What's the weather like?

- A The temperature is high and it's sunny.
 B The temperature is low and it's blowy.
 C The temperature is low and it's foggy.

2 Where was Winston going?

- A To his flat on the sixth floor.
 B To a department store on the seventh floor.
 C Upstairs to his home.

3 The posters Winston saw

- A were in black and white.
 B had a man's face and writing on them.
 C were of his big brother.

4 Winston

- A wasn't very tall.
 B had dark eyes.
 C ran up the stairs.

5 The telescreen in his room

- A was off when he entered.
 B was showing a programme about the police.
 C could see what Winston was doing.

6 London

- A was now part of Airstrip One

Chapter 1

Trust No One

▶ 2 It was a cold, windy day in April as Winston Smith walked through the doors of Victory Mansions into the smelly* hall leading to his apartment. As he walked up the stairs to the seventh floor, he saw the colourful poster of a handsome, forty-five year old man with a thick moustache, which was on every floor where Winston stopped to rest. It seemed that the eyes of the poster followed him wherever he went. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU was written in big letters under the large face.

Winston was a small, thin man with light eyes and his sore* ankle* made it difficult for him to walk.

As soon as he entered his apartment, he could hear a voice reading numbers coming from the telescreen*, which was the Thought Police's* way of communicating, and could never be turned off. The telescreen could record and watch every movement, although no one knew when The Thought Police were watching. From his window, Winston could see the face of Big Brother everywhere below in London. He also saw where he worked, at the Ministry of Truth. London was now the main city of Airstrip One, the area with the most people in Oceania*.

▶ 3 Winston searched his mind for a memory of London before it looked like this but he couldn't remember anything at all.

The Ministry of Truth or *Minitrue* in Newspeak* was the highest building in the area, and rose 300 metres above the rest of the city. It was the centre for education, news and entertainment for the Party.

From his home, Winston could read the words:

WAR IS PEACE

FREEDOM* IS SLAVERY*

IGNORANCE* IS STRENGTH*

The other three ministries in Winston's view of London were: The Ministry of Peace, whose job was to make war, the Ministry of Plenty, which looked after everything to do with money, and the scariest one of all – the Ministry of Love, which had to do with law. He had never been in that building without windows that was guarded* by men in black.

Winston didn't have anything to eat so he poured himself some disgusting Victory Gin and had a Victory Cigarette. He then sat down at his desk, which was out of view of the telescreen, so nobody could see him writing. He took out a pen and a beautiful red book he had recently bought at a little shop. The Party was against its members going to normal shops or writing about their personal thoughts. Although in Oceania, nothing was illegal*, it was understood that if a person did something against the Party, the Party would punish them by death or by sending them to prison.

Winston was nervous. He picked up the pen and with a shaky hand, wrote the words:

April 4th, 1984



Winston stopped. Was this the correct date? Who was he writing this for? He couldn't remember how to write his thoughts or what he wanted to say, even though he had thought about this moment for weeks.

There wasn't much time.

Winston began to write everything that came into his mind. He wrote about a war film he had recently watched. His thoughts weren't clear and he stopped again when his hand got tired.

Then he remembered something else.

This memory was of a woman and it had happened earlier that day...or at least he thought it had. The woman, who worked in the Fiction Department, had appeared in the room he was working in. She was about 27 and had dark hair and a nice face but he knew he didn't like her. He thought she was dangerous, especially when she had looked right at him. Was she part of the Thought Police?

The other person at work he had never spoken to was Comrade O'Brien. He had a thick neck and wore thick glasses and the black overalls*, which were the uniform of Inner Party* members. Something about O'Brien was special: he seemed intelligent and the kind of person you could talk to. O'Brien sat near Winston during the Two Minutes Hate, which they showed every day. On this programme, there was always Emmanuel Goldstein, with his little white beard, glasses and smart-looking face. He was the Party's worst enemy with his underground* organisation called The Brotherhood.

At the end of the Two Minutes Hate, Winston and O'Brien looked at each other and Winston felt that they were sharing something

George Orwell

important. Although he didn't talk to O'Brien, Winston thought:
Could he be part of the Brotherhood?

Winston looked down at the page and saw that he had written:
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER*

Winston worried that the Thought Police might know he had committed* a thoughtcrime*. They would come for him in the middle of the night and he would disappear forever. He put his pen down.

There was a knock at the door.

He ran to open the door, leaving the book open. He was sure it was the Thought Police but was surprised when the face looking at him was that of Mrs Parsons, or Comrade Parsons (the correct way to call others in the Party). She was about 30 although she seemed much older with deep wrinkles* on her face.

'My sink is broken. Can you fix* it?'

The flats at Victory Gardens, built in the 1930s, often had these kinds of problems. Either you fixed them yourself or you had to wait two years or more. Winston entered the apartment and began fixing the sink that was filled with disgusting, dirty water. Tom Parsons, Winston's colleague at the Ministry of Truth, wasn't home but his loud children were there, dressed in blue shorts, grey shirts and a necktie - the uniform of the Spies, the children's group of the Party.

'You're a spy*! You're a thought criminal! We'll kill you!' they shouted at Winston.

They were upset because they couldn't go to the public hanging*, a thing they loved to see. Winston finished and said goodbye to Mrs Parsons. He started to walk back to his apartment when one

of the children threw something at him and it hit him on the head. The boy shouted: 'Goldstein!' at Winston as his mother pulled him back inside. Winston's head hurt.

When Winston was back in his flat, he continued to think about Mrs Parsons' face. She was afraid of her horrible children who would soon watch her carefully for any sign that showed she didn't respect or obey the Party. The Spies were taught to be loyal* to the Party through singing, going for long walks in the country, making posters, shooting toy guns and loving Big Brother. They were always looking for enemies of the State and because of this, most people were scared of their own children. They'd tell the Thought Police when they thought their parents weren't following the rules of the Party and a picture of the child, whose parents were then sent to prison, appeared in the newspaper along with the words 'child hero' written next to it.

Winston's head felt better so he picked up his pen to write more in his diary. He was thinking of O'Brien and a dream he had had seven years ago. He was walking in a dark room when someone said to him:

'We'll meet in the place where there isn't any darkness*.'

Later Winston realised that it was a significant* dream, although at the time it hadn't seemed strange. He didn't know if the dream had happened before he first saw O'Brien or after and he couldn't remember when he had realised that the voice in the dream was O'Brien's.

Was O'Brien a friend or an enemy? He didn't know what *'We'll meet in the place where there isn't any darkness'* meant but he knew that one day it would happen.